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Operational activities segment

Summary record of the 41st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 29 June 2015, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Mejía Vélez (Vice-President) ..... (Colombia)

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (*continued*) (E/2015/L.16 and E/2015/L.3)

Draft resolution E/2015/L.16: Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

1. **The President** invited the Council to consider draft resolution E/2015/L.16, which she had submitted in her capacity as Vice-President on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution E/2015/L.3. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, urged the United Nations development system to play a scaled-up and significantly strengthened role in operational activities for development and their capacity to assist developing countries in achieving their development goals. A strengthened role would require continued improvement in effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact, as well as significant increases in core resources. Operational activities must address long-term development challenges, taking into account the promotion of capacity-building in developing countries, which was necessary for those countries to address national priorities and achieve internationally agreed goals. The United Nations system should make optimal use of available national expertise by enabling and facilitating the access of recipient countries to the full range of services throughout the development system, including regional commissions.

3. The urgent issue of poverty eradication must be considered the highest priority and fundamental objective of the United Nations development system. Poverty should therefore be addressed through appropriately targeted and clearly focused development programmes and projects. Within the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, he underscored the multidimensional nature of development and poverty, and the need for Member States and other stakeholders to develop a common understanding of that multidimensionality and reflect it in the post-2015 development agenda. He also stressed the need to avoid using core/regular resources to subsidize non-core/extra-budgetary financed activities, reaffirming that the financing of all non-programme costs should be based on a full cost recovery, proportionally, from core and non-core funding sources.

4. The Group of 77 and China requested all development system entities to consider the post-2015 development agenda in the context of midterm reviews and the elaboration of strategic plans and frameworks to ensure consistency and alignment. The Group also reaffirmed the importance of achieving geographical and gender diversity in the resident coordinator system, and of reforming the funds and programmes in that area to ensure the system's legitimacy.

5. It was imperative to strengthen the Office on South-South Cooperation in financial, human and budgetary terms within the context of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), including by appointing a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and recommending specific contributions UNDP could make.

6. Regular reporting from the United Nations development system at the country level was essential to ensure transparency and provide opportunities for country teams to improve. The development system must effect meaningful and tangible improvements in programme countries in order to remain fit for purpose.

7. *Draft resolution E/2015/L.16 was adopted.*

8. *Draft resolution E/2015/L.3 was withdrawn.*

(b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and the World Food Programme (*continued*) (E/2014/34/Rev.1, E/2015/35, E/2015/36 and E/2015/47)

9. **The President** proposed that the Council take note of the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its first and second regular sessions and annual session of 2014 (E/2014/34/Rev.1), the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations

Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services on its work during 2014 (E/2015/35), the report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme on the first and second regular sessions and annual session of 2014 (E/2015/36), and the reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on its first and second regular sessions and its annual session of 2014 (E/2015/47).

10. *It was so decided.*

11. **The President** declared the operational activities segment of the 2015 Economic and Social Council closed.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.